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Letter dated 8 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith an unofficial translation of the appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as to international leaders and all members of the international community, on condemnation of the violation of human rights and freedoms of Crimean Tatars as regards the banning of Mejlis and its recognition as an extremist organization by the Russian Federation occupation authorities in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as to international leaders and all members of the international community, on condemnation of the violation of human rights and freedoms of Crimean Tatars as regards the banning of Mejlis and its recognition as an extremist organization by the Russian Federation occupation authorities in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

Reaffirming its respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1995 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007,

Proceeding from the statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the Guarantees of Rights of the Crimean Tatar People within the Ukrainian State",

Noting that it is the fundamental responsibility of every State to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the violation thereof is inadmissible and should be condemned by the entire international community,

Condemning the illegal occupation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the large-scale, targeted and systematic violations of human and civil rights being perpetrated by the Russian occupation authorities on the territory of the Crimean peninsula, including on national grounds as in the case of the violation of rights of the Crimean Tatars, as an indigenous people of Ukraine, and representatives of other national minorities,

Taking into account the regular reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the report of the Joint Mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, as well as the Monitoring Review of the Crimean Field Mission on Human Rights, which have documented numerous cases of systematic violations of human and civil rights in the territory of the occupied Crimea,

Recalling the recognition by Ukraine of the Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people,

Taking into consideration the statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the Guarantees of Rights of the Crimean Tatar People within the Ukrainian State",

and being guided by the principles enshrined in articles 3, 11 and 15 of the Constitution of Ukraine and Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Vienna Declaration, which have guaranteed and approved the preservation and development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the Crimean Tatar people, as an indigenous people, and all other national minorities of Ukraine,

Confirming the right of the Crimean Tatar people to self-determination within the sovereign and independent Ukrainian State,

Confirming the recognition of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis as the executive body of Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people, and of Kurultai as the highest representative body of the Crimean Tatar people,

Expressing its concern about the denial by the Russian occupation authorities of access to the Crimean peninsula to international monitoring missions in the areas of human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and national minorities' rights to monitor the situation on the ground,

Drawing attention to the need to support and protect Crimean Tatars from illegal actions by the occupation authorities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in connection with the beginning of a so-called legal process aimed at recognizing Mejlis as an extremist organization and prohibiting its activity, which will entail the criminal prosecution of Mejlis members who do not recognize the annexation of Crimea and defend their national priorities, as well as their legal indigenous people's right to reside safely in the territory of Crimea,

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

Demands that the Russian Federation immediately cease carrying out the policy of the violation of human rights and civil freedoms in Crimea, constituting an integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, including the rights of Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people of Ukraine;

Calls on the international community to condemn the activities of the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation aimed at banning Crimean Tatar Mejlis on the territory of the peninsula, and calls on all world leaders and recognized public figures to make the necessary efforts to protect Crimean Tatars from discrimination and persecution by the Russian Federation;

Demands that the Russian Federation, which, as the occupying State, bears full responsibility under the norms of international law for ensuring human rights on the temporarily occupied territory, grant the conventional and monitoring institutions of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, OSCE and other international organizations full and unimpeded access to the illegally occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in order to carry out human rights monitoring on the ground in conformity with their respective mandates, and also calls on the international community to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to achieve this goal;

Considers it a common task of all members of the international community who share universally recognized values and respect for human rights to prevent the occupation authorities in Crimea from prohibiting the activity of Kurultai and Majlis, as the representative bodies of the Crimean Tatar people elected in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.